

found in the Philippine Isles by Mr. Cuming (an indefatigable Fellow of this Society), and one, but a very small and badly-preserved one, was obtained on the voyage of H.M.S. Samarang, in Nangasaki Bay in the Eastern Seas.

MISCELLANEOUS.

GALLINAGO BREHMI.

Two specimens of *G. brehmi* have been shot at Jardine Hall on the 9th and 10th of October, being the first time that this species has been noticed as visiting our islands. We have no doubt that it has hitherto been overlooked, but one distinction is very easily noticed. On comparing the tail with that of the common snipe, it will be seen that the outline of the latter is rounded, while in *G. brehmi* the outer feather exceeds the length of the second. At this season of winter migration we would invite sportsmen to attend to the finding of this bird.—W. J.

Jardine Hall, Oct. 11, 1849.

MR. WILLIAM MACCALLA.

It is too often our painful duty to record the loss of some naturalist who has shown himself well qualified to advance science, had he been spared to us, but who is called away in the prime of life. Such is now our position, since we have to announce the death of Mr. W. MacCalla, the well-known young Irish naturalist. We had the pleasure of forming an acquaintance with him many years since in his native district of Conamara in the county of Galway, and then recorded his promise of distinction in the journals of the day. At that time he had only commenced his career by making himself acquainted with the zoology and botany of that wild country, and we believe that his first discovery of note was the heath afterwards named, at the desire of Sir W. J. Hooker, *Erica Mackaiana*, in compliment to our distinguished friend Dr. J. T. Mackay, who was, we believe, poor MacCalla's first master in botany, and who had kindly encouraged him in his early and otherwise unassisted course of study.

We cannot do better than by adopting the language concerning him of Dr. W. H. Harvey, who speaks of him as follows in his beautiful 'Phycologia Britannica' (cclxiii.) when describing an Alga (*Enteromorpha Hopkirkii*, MacCalla) named by him. His words are—

“In now adopting Mr. MacCalla's specific name I wish to record the regret I feel, in common with all naturalists acquainted with his merits, that death should so soon have closed a career which opened with so much promise of future fame. The readers of the 'Phycologia' must be well acquainted with the name of Mr. William MacCalla, in connection with the habitats of many of our rarest Algæ. It is therefore almost superfluous to say that he was well acquainted with the species, and had a most acute eye to detect a minute spe-